

Message Text

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ACTION IO-06

INFO OCT-01 AGR-10 RSC-01 AID-05 EB-06 AF-10 ARA-10 EA-10

EUR-12 NEA-10 COME-00 ISO-00 TRSE-00 SWF-01 L-02

OIC-02 PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 /118 W

----- 027875

R 291750Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7749

UNCLAS ROME 14964

FODAG

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: FAO, OCON, EAGR

SUBJ: FAO SUB-COMMITTEE ON SURPLUS DISPOSAL - CCP DEBATE

FROM USDEL/CCP

SUMMARY: DEBATE ON ADAPTING FUNCTIONS AND NAME OF SUB-COMMITTEE ON SURPLUS DISPOSAL (CSD) FEATURED BY SHARP CLASHES IN BOTH PLENARY AND DRAFTING GROUP, WITH EXPORTING COUNTRIES FAVORING ROLE FOR CSD IN ANY SYSTEM OF WORLD FOOD SECURITY AND INDIA AND EGYPT STRONGLY OPPOSING. ALL AGREE DECISIONS PREMATURE NOW. REPORT AS AGREED IS ESSENTIALLY FAVORABLE TO CSD BUT CONTAINS NO MANDATE FOR NEW YORK AT PRESENT TIME. END SUMMARY.

1. AT REQUEST SECRETARIAT, US DELEGATE PRESENTED BOTH CSD REPORTS. DELEGATE ACCORDINGLY REFRAINED FROM PARTICIPATION IN DISCUSSION WHICH FOLLOWED.

2. CCP DEBATE CENTERED ON SPECIAL REPORT WHICH EXPLORED POSSIBLE CHANGES IN CSD FUNCTIONS, ROLE AND NAME IN LIGHT OF CHANGED FOOD AID SITUATION AND FOOD SECURITY PROPOSALS TO BE CONSIDERED AT WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE. NETHERLANDS IN WELL ORGANIZED
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PRESENTATION SUGGESTED CSD SHOULD DEVISE PROCEDURES PARALLELING

RULES FOR NONINTERFERENCE WITH TRADE TO ALSO INSURE
NONINTERFERENCE WITH FOOD PRODUCTION IN RECIPIENT COUNTRIES.
NO DELEGATES COMMENTED IN PLENARY BUT SEVERAL EXPRESSED
INTEREST IN CORRIDOR TALKS.

3. CSD PRAISED BY ARGENTINA, AUSTRALIA, CANADA,
DENMARK AND FRANCE. ALL FELT CSD MIGHT HAVE PART IN FUTURE WORLD
FOOD SECURITY SYSTEM BUT THAT FUNCTIONS AND NAME SHOULD REMAIN
UNCHANGED FOR PRESENT. THEY SUPPORTED CSD SUGGESTION THAT ITS
REPORT BE MADE AVAILABLE TO WFC PARTICIPANTS. CANADA SUGGESTED
CSD TAKE FRESH LOOK AT FAO PRINCIPLES AND GUIDELINES FOR POSSIBLE
UPDATING.

4. INDIA AND EGYPT TOOK STRONG NEGATIVE POSITIONS ON ALL POINTS,
ARGUING AGAINST BOTH ACTION ON REPORT OR ON SUGGESTIONS FOR FURTHER
CSD REVIEW OF ITS FUNCTIONING. CHAIRMAN, APPEARING ANXIOUS TO
TERMINATE DEBATE, RULED THAT DECISIONS MUST AWAIT OUTCOME OF WFC
AND ALSO THAT REPORT WOULD NOT BE REFERRED TO WFC.

5. DISPUTE REOPENED IN DRAFTING GROUP BY INDIA, CLAIMING TO
ALSO SPEAK FOR EGYPTIAN REPRESENTATIVE WHO WAS ILL. ARGUMENT
CENTERED ON LANGUAGE IN DRAFT REPORT WHICH BROUGHT CSD REPORT
AND CCP DEBATE TO ATTENTION FAO COUNCIL AND IMPLIED THAT QUESTION
OF CSD FUNCTIONS WOULD BE CONSIDERED FURTHER IN WFC FOLLOW-UP.
INDIA TRIED TO DELETE THESE PASSAGES AND WATER DOWN OTHER
LANGUAGE RECOGNIZING USEFULNESS OF CSD. TENUOUS STRUGGLE
FOLLOWED, WITH US WITH HELP FROM AUSTRALIA AND FRANCE INSISTING
THAT REPORT MUST REFLECT DEBATE WHICH PREPONDERANTLY FAVORABLE
TO CSD. PROPERLY BALANCED REPORT FINALLY ACHIEVED
WHICH ALERTS COUNCIL TO USEFULNESS OF CSD IN A FOOD SECURITY
SYSTEM AND FLAGS QUESTIONS OF RESPONSIBILITIES AND NAME FOR
DECISION IN WFC FOLLOWUP. VOLPE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLICIES, AGRICULTURAL SURPLUSES, FOOD ASSISTANCE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 29 OCT 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974ROME14964
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740308-0970
From: ROME
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741010/aaaaahsw.tel
Line Count: 93
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: izenbei0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 12 MAR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <12 MAR 2002 by chappeld>; APPROVED <11 FEB 2003 by izenbei0>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FAO SUB-COMMITTEE ON SURPLUS DISPOSAL - CCP DEBATE FROM USDEL/CCP
TAGS: OCON, EAGR, FAO
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005